

**MANITOBA
FIREARM INCIDENTS
REPORT**

**Hunting and Non-Hunting
1999**

**Hunter and Firearm
Safety Program**

**Manitoba
Conservation
and
Manitoba
Wildlife Federation**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Manitoba Conservation acknowledges the assistance provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces who provided information for this Firearm Incidents Report. It is through these organizations that detailed information on each firearm incident was obtained.

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional incident report forms please write to the Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg Manitoba R3J 3W3 or phone 945-6644. Questions regarding the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Program should be directed to:

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation
70 Stevenson Road
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W7
633- Hunt (4868) or
1-877-633-Hunt

SUMMARY

During 1999 there were 15 firearm related incidents. In 1997 there were 8 and in 1998 there were 6. Seven of the 15 incidents in 1999 were self-inflicted, two resulting in fatalities. There were two hunting related fatalities. Nine of the incidents involved shooters under 18 years of age, compared to none in 1998 and 3 in 1997.

Six of the 15 reported incidents were not directly related to hunting. Three occurred during a licenced hunting season, resulting in one fatality.

Of the 15 reported incidents, 14 occurred at a distance of less than ten yards, one at a distance of 10-50 yards. Four of the 15 incidents involved a graduate of a Hunter Safety Program – 3 non-fatal and 1 fatal.

The Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety course was completed by 2,068 students in 1999, while 1,807 completed the course in 1998. 132,006 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the total 160 have later become involved in a firearm incident which represents .0012%. In 1999, 15 new instructors were certified, bringing the total number of volunteers to approximately 245 active instructors.

In 1998 the Manitoba Conservation entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF). The agreement transfers the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program to the MWF.

CAUSE OF INCIDENTS

	1998	1999
Victim out of sight of shooter	1	0
Victim moved into line of fire	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	0	0
Victim mistaken for game	2(1)*	1
Shooter stumbled and fell	3	4(2)*
Using firearm as a club	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object	0	0
Loaded firearm in vehicle	0	0
Firearm fell from insecure rest	0	1
Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded"	0	2
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm	0	0
Loading	0	0
Unloading	0	2(1)*
Defective firearm	0	0
Cleaning firearm	0	0
Loaded firearm in the home	0	2(1)*
Accidental discharge	0	1
Richochet	0	0
Other	0	2

* Indicates fatal incident

Total	6	15
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Average firearm incidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994-1998	9.0
1999	15.0

SYNOPSIS OF 1998 AND 1999 FIREARM INCIDENTS

	1998	1999
A. Total Number of Incidents	6	15
Fatal	1	4
Non-fatal	5	11
B. 1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season	4	3
Fatal	1	1
Non-fatal	3	2
2) Treaty Indian Hunting	0	6
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	0	5
3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	0	1
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	0	0
4) Non-hunting Incidents	2	7
Fatal in the home	0	1
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	0	1
Non-fatal in the home	0	1
Non-fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Non-fatal outside the home	2	4
C. Shooter Unknown	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
D. Incidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age	0	9
All Types of Hunting	0	3
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	0	2
Non-hunting	0	6
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	0	5

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
A. .22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	1	7
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	1	6
B. Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	3	1
Fatal	1	1
Non-fatal	2	0
C. Shotgun	1	3
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	1	2
D. Hand Gun	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
E. Pellet Gun	0	3
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	3
F. Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader	1	1
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	1	0
Total	6	15

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
0 to 10 yards	3	14
10 to 50 yards	1	1
50 to 100 yards	0	0
over 100 yards	2	0
Distance Unknown	0	0

OCCURENCES

<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Midnight – 3:00 a.m.	0	0
3:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	1*	2
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	1	3(1)*
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.	0	2(1)*
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	3	4(2)*
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	1	3
9:00 p.m. – 12:00 midnight	0	1
Unknown	0	0

By Day

Sunday	0	2(1)*
Monday	2	3
Tuesday	0	2
Wednesday	0	2(1)*
Thursday	0	1
Friday	3*	2
Saturday	1	3(2)*

By Month

January	1*	0
February	0	0
March	0	3
April	0	3(1)*
May	0	1
June	1	1
July	0	1
August	0	1(1)*
September	1	2
October	1	1(1)*
November	2	1
December	0	1(1)*

* Indicates one or more fatal

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENCES SOLD

	GAME	BIG GAME	TOTAL
1970	45,822	47,156	92,978
1975	48,687	11,606*	60,293
1980	58,091	60,505	118,596
1985	35,342	52,541	87,883
1990	34,571	60,006	94,577
1995	24,511	67,883	92,394
1996	24,789	71,955	96,744
1997	23,446	63,668	87,114
1998	23,816	59,743	83,559
1999	22,087	66,795	88,882

* Indicates closed deer season

COMPARISON OF TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS LICENSED HUNTING INCIDENTS WITH TOTAL HUNTING LICENCES ISSUED

YEAR	TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS	LICENCED HUNTING INCIDENTS
1985	87,883	26	7
1990	94,577	22	6
1995	92,394	15	1
1996	96,744	8	5
1997	87,114	8	0
1998	83,559	6	4
*1999	88,882	15	4

*As of Febuary 18, 2000 - Subject to reconciliation

SUMMARY OF 1999 INCIDENTS

Proper firearm handling is the most important element of hunter safety. Careless handling of firearms can cause death or injury to hunters or their companions before they see their target or even reach the bush. Ten basic rules must be followed whenever a firearm is handled or used. The first four rules apply whether you are in a home or building (such as a gun store), in a vehicle, at a shooting range or while hunting. The ten basic rules are:

GENERAL RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. **ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE OF A FIREARM IN THE SAFEST DIRECTION.**
2. **OPEN THE ACTION OF A FIREARM AS SOON AS YOU PICK IT UP FOR ANY REASON.**
3. **LOOK INTO THE CHAMBER AND MAGAZINE TO ENSURE THE FIREARM IS UNLOADED AFTER OPENING THE ACTION.**
4. **DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGER IN THE TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL READY TO FIRE.**
5. **BE CERTAIN THE BARREL IS FREE FROM OBSTRUCTION . THIS SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE LOADING AND PERIODICALLY DURING MOVEMENT IN THE FIELD.**
6. **CHECK FOR THE CORRECT AMMUNITION FOR THE FIREARM YOU ARE USING.**
7. **USE THE SAFETY BUT DON'T RELY ON IT.**
8. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED FIREARM.**
9. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BEYOND BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.**
10. **TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS THOUGH IT WERE LOADED.**

SUMMARY OF 1999 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY	CIRCUMSTANCES
March 23 6:00 pm	S - 17 V - 18	No	.22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Shooter and victim target shooting at unsafe metal targets. Victim struck by metallic fragments.
March 30 7:30 pm	S - 29 Self- inflicted	No	.22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Beaver	No	Victim thought he had unloaded firearm and pulled the trigger. Firearm discharged between toes of right foot.
April 2 evening	S - 15 Self- inflicted	No	177 pellet rifle	0 - 10 yds	Grouse	No	Shooter tripped and fell while running through bush. Struck in palm of left hand.

S - Shooter
V - Victim

SUMMARY OF 1999 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY COURSE	CIRCUMSTANCES
April 8 5:00 pm	S - 8 V - 4	No	177 pellet rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Horseplay. Shooter did not know firearm was loaded. Victim struck above left eye.
April 19 8:30 am	S - 10 V - 42	No	12 gauge shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Goose	No	Shooter fired shotgun with obstructed barrel. Pieces of barrel struck victim in wrist.
April 24 9:00 am	S - 16 V - 8	Yes	shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Loaded firearm in home. Shooter didn't know it was loaded, discharged into victim's face.

S - Shooter
V - Victim

SUMMARY OF 1999 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY COURSE	CIRCUMSTANCES
May 24 5:30 pm	S - 15 Self- inflicted	No	177 pellet rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Shooter taped 22 calibre cartridge to end of 177 pellet rifle and fired. Wound to right abdomen.
June 21 9:30 pm	S - 28 V - 24	No	.22 magnum rifle	10- 50 yds	Beaver	Yes	Shooter mistook the victim for game (beaver).
July 2 afternoon	S - 16 V - 16	No	.22 cal rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	Yes	Shooter was laying down his rifle, as victim was checking targets (tin cans) 22 discharged striking victim in left hand.

S - Shooter
V - Victim

SUMMARY OF 1999 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY COURSE	CIRCUMSTANCES
August 7 3:00 pm	S - 37 V - 23	Yes	.270 rifle	0 - 10 yds	Elk	Yes	Shooter was unloading rifle which discharged into the chest of the victim.
September 1 7:00 am	S - 19 Self- inflicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Sandhill cranes	No	Victim accepted a loaded shotgun from partner. Was holding it by the barrel when he tripped. The shotgun discharged into his arm.
September 12 11:25 am	S - 26 Self- inflicted	No	.22 cal rifle	0 - 10 yds	Ducks	Yes	Shooter was placing firearm in canoe. Thought it was unloaded, rifle fell and discharged into lower left leg.

S - Shooter
V - Victim

SUMMARY OF 1999 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY COURSE	CIRCUMSTANCES
October 20 5:00 pm	S - 73 Self- inflicted	Yes	Muzzle loader	0 - 10 yds	Deer	No	Victim tripped and fell as he was climbing into a blind. Firearm discharged into chest.
November 20 9:50 am	S - 8 V - 11	No	.22 cal rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Shooter was playing with firearm in house. Thought it was unloaded. Struck victim in neck.
December 5 1:30 pm	S - 14 Self- inflicted	Yes	.22 cal rifle	0 - 10 yds	Pigeons	No	Victim was hunting pigeons in a granary. Firearm discharged into stomach.

S - Shooter
V - Victim